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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Note verbale dated 29 June 2007 from the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and has the honour to inform him that the Minister of the Environment and Urban Development and head of the Sudanese delegation to the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York from 30 April to 11 May 2007, was unable to attend those meetings because he was not granted an entry visa.

The Minister had presented his request for an entry visa to the United States Embassy in Khartoum on 3 April 2007. Up to 3 May 2007, the date on which the session was to end, the Embassy had not granted the entry visa and had not given any justification for its action.

The unjustified position of the United States authorities is a violation of their obligations under the Headquarters Agreement concluded between the United States and the United Nations. It is also a flagrant violation of all international agreements and norms regarding diplomatic immunities and privileges as well as a departure from well-established diplomatic norms governing relations between States.

The inability of the Minister to head the Sudanese delegation diminished the level at which it was represented and had a negative effect on its participation in those important meetings. The Sudan ascribes particular importance to those meetings, owing to their relationship to its efforts to achieve sustainable development, confront environmental challenges and overcome the causes of tension and the consequences of the struggle over resources.

The Permanent Mission of the Sudan would like to request that this matter be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and that this note verbale be circulated as an official document of the Committee.

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